



History NEWS

Issue No. 279 Feb/March 2009
Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Join us in celebrating RHSV's 100 years

This year the RHSV celebrates its 100th year. A varied program of conferences, publications, workshops, commemorative partnerships, lectures and exhibitions has been planned; not only will these reflect on this remarkable achievement but also they will encourage us to think where the RHSV might find itself in another 100 years.

From the initial cry from the heart, published in *The Argus* in 1909, by William John Hughston to collect the memories of the first pioneers before they died, a movement began with the establishment of the RHSV to collect, catalogue and make accessible the evidence of ordinary people, the “quieter makers of history”. The RHSV encouraged the establishment of other local historical societies across the state. Today these collections are resonant with significance; valued by researchers, history enthusiasts and local communities alike, as they hold the character to local stories, identities and the social history of Victoria. These are now our community’s treasures.

Unlike other collecting institutions of 100 years ago, concerned more with “classifying” and putting things in storage, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the emerging historical societies were always concerned about public access, producing in a way the first “public programs”; from the outset encouraging publications, lectures and participation in our history. *The Victorian Historical Journal* commenced in 1911 and is open to all historians. Today the ethos of encouraging community involvement is paramount.

Throughout our 100 years the Royal Historical Society of Victoria has been an advocate. Almost from the start it lobbied for the systematic archiving of government papers eventually leading to the establishment of the Public Record Office in 1973. It has always played a role in encouraging the teaching of history in schools and having significant events commemorated and recognised. Today we continue to work with government agencies to gain better resources for community history, for historians and historical societies. The History Victoria Support Group facilitates training and networking for volunteers in local history.

Please take part in our commemorative events throughout the year.

Community Treasures exhibition



Starting on 20 March, a wonderful exhibition of history and collection called *Community Treasures*, curated by Elisabeth Willis and with the very generous support of the Melbourne City Council, will be on display at the City of Melbourne Gallery in Swanston Street.

RHSV Centenary Conference

On 2 May we will be holding our Centenary Conference at the State Library of Victoria, please see the booking form enclosed with this edition of *History News*.

From the outset the RHSV has been a subscription organisation. With your support, and the support of the State Government, grants and the immense volunteer contribution we have continuously been able to maintain a collection and library, support research, create public access to our collections, deliver public programs, provide support to historical societies and be an innovator in information technology to promote local history. Please continue to support us as we set off into our second century.

2009 will be a year of looking “*Back to the Future*” – an opportunity to reflect on all things past and present - to plan for an exciting future. I hope you will join us.

Kate Prinsley
Executive Officer



The RHSV receives a RETI grant

In the recent round of RETI grants administered by Museums Australia (Victoria) the RHSV received a Category A exhibition grant to develop a touring exhibition of Art Deco in Victoria.

The exhibition is a separate project to the Art Deco Regional Festival that took place in September but comes out of the clearly expressed interest to exhibit more of regional Victoria's Art Deco collections. Called *Made in Victoria* it is planned that the exhibition will look at Victoria's manufacturing of utilitarian and more luxury items of the Art Deco period - set within the social history of the period.

RHSV receives two Sands & McDougalls

Recently Robert Brelaz, a member of the RHSV was cleaning out his garage and found 1942 and 1946 editions of Sands & McDougalls which he subsequently donated to the RHSV. The RHSV thanks Robert and encourages members to look through their garages/bookshelves etc and if they have any copies of "Sands & Macs" to donate them to us. "Sands & Macs" are heavily used by the RHSV volunteers and researchers, so if you have any copies that you no longer need please consider donating them to the RHSV.

Congratulations to the following groups who received grants from the Holsworth Trust 2008

- Cressy Historical Society
- Field Nats of Ballarat
- Friends of Bendigo Cemetery Trust
- Geelong National Trust
- Geelong Historical Society
- Linton Historical Society
- Maryborough Field Nats
- Moe & District Historical Society
- Mornington National Trust
- Mortlake & District Historical Society
- Myrtleford & District Historical Society
- Ballarat National Trust
- Seymour Historical Society
- Smythesdale Cemetery Trust \$950
- Tatura Historical Society
- Woodend Historical Society
- Wycheproof Historical Society



Community Treasures Exhibition



20 March – 30 June 2009

In 2009, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria celebrates its centenary with a program of special events. One of the first will be an exhibition supported by the City of Melbourne. It opens on 20 March in the City Gallery, Swanston Street, and runs to 30 June.

The exhibition, entitled *Community Treasures*, will present some of the many treasures that the Society continues to make accessible to the community.

The community's 'treasures' also include the Society's volunteers who catalogue, research and care for the collection and make it available to the public. Several long-standing volunteers have been interviewed about their work, and they will feature in a short film commissioned by the Society for the exhibition.

Elizabeth Willis, Exhibition Curator



HISTORY WEEK 2009

Nearly a 100 applications have been received for funding towards banners and brochures to assist RHSV affiliated societies to promote their work.

The applications are currently being processed and all applicants will be contacted by the end of February.

'Seaweed Express' arrives

The 'Seaweed Express' will arrive on our website later this month – an addition to our comprehensive index to the Society's major publication: *Victorian Historical Journal*. This is just one of over 1200 new references to information contained in Volume 78 (2007). We thank John Adams for his careful preparation of the index, knowing its great value to members and researchers in general. Richard Barnden and Vicki Court have been responsible for the index's transfer to electronic format.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian and Local History Library

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HERITAGE AT RISK PROGRAM

The Australian Council of National Trusts is calling for nominations

If you know of a heritage site that is at risk of demolition or ruin resulting from decay and neglect you are urged to consider nominating it for consideration under the ACNT's Heritage at Risk Program. The 2007 and 2008 programs were very successful in raising the awareness of the public about issues of heritage conservation, and generated considerable media attention for both nationally and state and territory listed heritage at risk. Some places, for example, Northbank in Queensland, on the Top Ten have already been saved. Others are continuing to get media attention as the people of Australia fight to save them, spurred on by the actions of the National Trust and partners. This program is supported by the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

The 2009 nominations for consideration by the Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT) for inclusion on its National and State/Territory under its Heritage at Risk lists close on 18 April 2009 – World Heritage Day. The process for nominating is described on the ACNT website at www.heritageatrisk.org.au. State and Territory Heritage lists will be released in July and the National List in October or November at a state

Nominations close on 18 April-World Heritage Day. The process for nominations may vary from state to state, but is described on our website: www.heritageatrisk.org.au.

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The website www.heritageatrisk.org.au gives further information information on the 2007 and 2008 National and State and Territory Our Heritage at Risk lists. These lists are updated on a continuous basis and report cards for the 2007 nominations have been posted.

Article compiled by Helen Henderson based on information received from Maree Treadwell, Research Officer, Australian Council of National Trusts.



A WONDERFUL WAY
FOR VOLUNTEERS
TO BECOME INVOLVED

LETTERS OF A NATION

THE BICENTENARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN POSTAL SERVICE – A WONDERFUL WAY FOR VOLUNTEERS TO BECOME INVOLVED.

Australia Post is celebrating its bicentenary in 2009 and to commemorate it, it will be delivering a year-long program of activities including its *Letters of a Nation* program.

In 1809 Isaac Nichols, a former convict, was appointed the first postmaster, marking the beginning of the longest continually operated organisation in Australia.

For over 200 years, letters have carried the thoughts, feelings and dreams of this country. Letters have captured the stories, individual lives, the successes and failures of both the “significant” and lesser-known Australians.

Throughout 2009, Australia Post will be running its *Letters of a Nation* project whereby Australians will be encouraged to send in copies of letters held in their family archives, in cupboards, drawers, kept safe in the back of books. These letters will be collated into a vast resource making them accessible to the public; a fascinating primary source for research into our history.

The RHSV is delighted to be invited to be a partner in this project as the roots of our organisation lay in the collecting of memories of “ordinary people”. Other project partners include the National Archives of Australia.

Volunteers are needed to help read, sort and identify letters of historical significance. Guidelines are being developed to help volunteers. The time commitment is entirely up to the volunteer and much of the task can be done from home. Alternatively volunteers will be made welcome in the offices of Haystack Communications, South Melbourne, which is the company managing the project. It is anticipated that volunteers will be needed from March – December. Volunteers could also be useful in spreading the word about the project and in identifying suitable letters for submission.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a national project capturing the spirit of ordinary Australians – much as has been the work of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and its counterparts throughout Australia.

For further information about how you can become involved in this project please contact Kate Prinsley on 9326 9288 or kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au by 20 February.

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BOOKS RECEIVED:

We note below relevant items sent to the Society. Interested groups or authors are invited to contribute to this valuable service to members in *History News* and through deposit in the RHSV's library. Some items may later be reviewed in the Society's *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Suzanna Falkiner, *Joan in India*, Australian Scholarly Press, Melbourne, 2008, pp. xv + 315, \$39-95. ISBN 978 1 74097 162 1
Joan Falkiner was a member of the wealthy pastoral Falkiner family of Wanganella in the Riverina, famous for their breeding of fine Merinos. After a privileged upbringing in Britain and Melbourne, she defied her parents and fled to India in 1939 to marry Taley, the prince of the small Indian state of Palanpur. Her biographer, a relative, writes not only about this remarkable love and family story but also about how she has pieced it all together, no mean achievement. The resulting vignette provides glimpses of upper-class life in interwar Melbourne as well as perspectives on connections with the 'exotic'. Joan died in 2003.

Helmet Glenk: *From Desert Sands to Golden Oranges, The History of the German Templer Settlement of Sarona in Palestine 1871-1947* Trafford, Victoria Canada, 2005, pp. xx + 291. ISBN 1 4120 3506 6
Sheltered Dreams at Kilimanjaro, An Historical Account of German Settlers from Palestine Who Started a New Life in German East Africa in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries Trafford, Victoria, Canada, 2007, pp. xxiv + 269. ISBN 978 1 4251 3922 3
Many Germans from the Palestine settlement were interned during World War II were transported to Australia, mainly to camps near Tatura. Many stayed here after the war, some like Glenk at Bayswater. These two books examine aspects of Templer history away from Australia and provide much contextual material about the Templer past in the Middle East and East Africa. They are well-illustrated and researched.

Norman Houghton: *By the Barwon, A History of Forrest and Barramunga*, 2005, 2nd edition 2007, pp. iv + 24; *The Ridge, A Brief Historical Guide to the West Otway Ridge*, 2005, pp. iv + 16; *Beechy Rail, Historical and Engineering Guide to the Old Beechy Line Trail*, 2005, pp. 14; *Homes in the Hills, Historic Glimpses of Barongarook, Gellibrand, Banool and Carlisle River*, 2006, pp. iv + 48; *Beechy Forest, Capital on the Ridge*, 2007, pp. iv + 111
All published by Norman Houghton, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220
Norman Houghton has been working

long and hard on Otways history. These books are part of his substantial legacy. They are desktop-published, informative, well-illustrated, and a mine of information about past times and the kind of lives led by timber-getters, road-makers, railway workers, farmers, and others in the communities that battled with the high rainfall, heavily timbered, and steep landscapes of this unique part of Victoria. He has served this area well as this sample of books shows.

Ken James: *A History of Weatherboard*, 2008, pp. 241; *A History of Fryerstown State School No. 252*, 2008, pp. 74; with Noel Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, 2008, pp. 330
All published by Ken James, 18 Lofty Avenue, Camberwell, 3124
The authors have put together in accessible form many documents, photos and newspaper excerpts that illustrate the pasts of these particular areas of central Victoria. They are especially strong on the school records of their places. They are solidly documented and provide strong bases from which to investigate further.

Walter Woodbury: A Victorian Study
The Royal Photographic Society, Victorian Chapter, Melbourne, 2008, pp. xii + 115. ISBN 978 0 646 49567 5
Woodbury's wonderful 1855 Melbourne panorama is now familiar to members of the RHSV but this achievement is one of so many in his life as an innovative photographer and path-breaking inventor in the processes of the craft. This most interesting tribute was prepared by members of the History Group and details his rich life in photography in Batavia and England after leaving Australia in 1857. It is beautifully illustrated and documented.

M. Lia, *One Creek Too Many, An Analysis of John Batman's 1835 Journey of Exploration to the Port Phillip District and the Last Day of the Outward Journey*, 2008, pp. vii + 32
Where the Batman treaty was signed has been a perennial question that has been tackled by many, often in RHSV publications. Merv Lia concludes, after exhaustive groundwork and painstaking assessment of the maps and other documents that the treaty was signed on the east bank of the Merri Creek at Coburg Lake park. He expresses 'the hope' that his conclusions about the 'most likely treaty site will be the last word on the matter' (p. 29). His tracing of the last day of Batman's outward journey is crucial to his conclusion about the site. You can be almost certain that this is not the last word! It may be a compelling argument for many.

Marion Poynter, *Nobody's Valentine, Letters in the Life of Valentine Alexa Leeper, 1901-2001* Miegunyah Press and Trinity College, Melbourne, 2008, pp. 488, \$59-95. ISBN 9780522855838.
Valentine Leeper had a long life marked by activism on many issues: education for women, racism, freedom of speech, refugees, Aborigines, female ordination were always matters to which she devoted her advocacy often through public and private letter-writing. This book uses her vast collection of letters to reveal the life of this remarkable and unique Melbourne person throughout the 20th century. She was as the title wittily suggests, nobody's fool. Readers will find plenty to interest and probably to contend with in the clearly stated views of this argumentative woman.

Robert Wuchatsh, *Dan O'Brien, The Original Owner of Carbine: Australia's Forgotten Turf Legend* Stony Rises Run, 2020 Princes Highway, Pirron Yallock, 3249, 2008, pp. xiv + 318, \$60. ISBN 9780958915311.
A very detailed, meticulously-researched life of Dan O'Brien, born in Melbourne in 1847 and involved in horse racing as jockey, trainer and owner until his death in Sydney in 1916. He left Melbourne for Dunedin in 1867 and established himself as a leading owner and trainer especially in the South Island. His ability to identify good horses led to much success on the track. He is most famed (but not remembered enough according to the author) for his purchase of Carbine near Auckland in 1887 and his later sale in Melbourne in 1888 where he won the 1890 Melbourne Cup. O'Brien's life was spent with horses on both sides of the Tasman and he was important in the trans-Tasman trading in horses.

Charles Page, *Wings of Destiny, Wing Commander Charles Learmonth, DFC and Bar and the Air War in New Guinea* Rosenberg Publishing, PO Box 6125, Dural Delivery Centre, 2158, 2008, pp. 416, \$35. ISBN 9781877058646
Charles Learmonth was killed when his Beaufort crashed in January 1944 off the southwest coast of Western Australia. An RAAF pilot with most distinguished service in the war over New Guinea in 1942-3, he was the commanding officer of 14 Squadron at Pearce at the time of his death, aged 26. His upbringing was on a farm at Tyrendarra in south-western Victoria worked by Noel Learmonth, his father, notable local historian, naturalist, and an early fellow of the RHSV. The book is an exhaustive study of the air war in New Guinea and of the aircraft involved as well as a commemoration of Learmonth after whom the Exmouth Gulf airfield was named.

The Victorian Community History Awards

The 10th anniversary of the Victorian Community History Awards was celebrated in Queen's Hall, Parliament House, on 31 May 2008. Annette O'Donohue and Bev Hanson won the overall prize for volume 6 of their *Eaglehawk & District Pioneer Register*, the culmination of a seventeen-year project. The History Awards together with the Local History Grants of the PROV have fostered a flowering of community history in Victoria.

At the first History Awards, held at Toongabbie on Australia Day 1998, Patrick (Paddy) Morgan won the overall prize of \$5000 for his book *The Settling of Gippsland* and four category winners each won \$1000. The categories numbered six the following year, covering print, collaborative work, historic walks, exhibitions, audio-visual/multimedia projects, and community research/registers. These categories and the total prize money of \$11,000 remain unchanged today.

A highly professional, dedicated team at Information Victoria has organised the Awards over the past 10 years. Information Victoria promotes the Awards through its website and publications, and is renowned for having the state's biggest collection of local history for sale at its bookshop, 505 Little Collins Street.

Since 2000 the prize-giving has been held in the grand Queen's Hall, Parliament House, a suitable venue for what has become a gala occasion, with artistic displays of most entries and some moving speeches from prize winners. The Queen's Hall function enables community historians from all over the state to mingle and learn from one another's projects.

The monetary prizes offered by the Awards are modest but in community history recognition is more important than money. Community historians contend with many obstacles, not the least of which is the media's disdain, especially in the metropolis. It seems impossible to gain even perfunctory coverage by the Melbourne dailies of the popular Awards finale. Reviews of self-published community history remain largely the domain of the sympathetic RHSV. The *Age* and the *Australian* exclude self-published community history from their review supplements and the *Australian Book Review* similarly shuns it.

The RHSV co-operated with the History Awards from the outset and appointed the judges. The three current judges are the journalist John Lahey, appointed in 1998, and historians John Hirst and Carole Woods, both appointed in 2000. John Lahey writes annotations for winning entries in his inimitable style. Thus, he wrote of Vicki Fairfax's book *A Place Across the River* that 'Ms Fairfax had knitted together the many threads of the Victorian

Arts Centre's history, and she seemed not to have dropped a stitch'.

Each year presents unique problems for the judges. Their early concerns that metropolitan entries would dominate owing to easy access to libraries and archives has proved unfounded. Country entries have won most of the overall prizes and in 2003 won five of the seven prizes available. An outstanding country entry was a bridge over Morse's Creek, Wandiligong, which symbolised reconciliation between two previously conflicting cultures – the Chinese and British.

Some community historians have expressed concern that paid professional writers would dominate the competition but overwhelmingly the prizes have gone to non-professionals, and where the prizes have gone to professionals there has been a strong community dimension to their work as with Peter Yule's *The Royal Children's Hospital* and Richard Broome's *Aboriginal Victorians*.

The audio-visual category has tended to be weak: the judges seek vibrant, innovative entries rather than the registers on disc often submitted. However, there have been several superb entries such as a CD ROM project from Warik Lawrance, which simulates a walk down part of Collins Street in 1864.

Community history is often criticised for being parochial and indeed this was true of some plodding chronologies and patchwork compilations of earlier times. Increasingly the judges are seeing valuable microcosms of a larger picture and the skilful netting of the ephemeral. These features are apparent in two winners of the highest prize, Ann Synan's *We Came With Nothing: story of the West Sale Migrant Holding Centre* and Jillian Durance's *Still Going Strong: the story of the Moyarra Honor Roll*. Both authors are non-professional writers, live in the country communities they portray and received strong support from those communities.

The 2009 Awards will coincide with the centenary celebrations of the RHSV. Entries close on 27 February 2009.

Carole Woods

Enter the Victorian Community History Awards

now

All Victorians have a story to tell - from the 40,000 year old Koorie culture, through to the first European settlers to our most recent immigrants.

The Victorian Community History Awards 2009 are proudly sponsored by Information Victoria, which aims to keep these true stories alive.

The Awards recognise excellence in historical method. The various categories acknowledge that history can be told in many formats with the aim of reaching and enriching all Victorians.

First prize for the overall winner is \$5,000, with six \$1,000 prizes for the finalists of each category.

The categories are:

- Best Collaborative/Community Work.
- Best Print/Publication.
- Best Audio-Visual/Multimedia.
- Best Exhibit/Display.
- Best Walk/Tour.
- Best Community Research, Registers and Records.

All entrants will be invited to the official ceremony in Queens Hall, Parliament in May 2009.

Assistance and judging of the awards is provided by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Entries close at COB, Friday 27 Feb. 2009.

Entry forms are available by emailing a request to:
info.marketing@dpcd.vic.gov.au

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP – RHSV

SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2009

Hosted by the Horsham Historical Society

To be held at 33 Pynsent Street, Horsham

See: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hhs/welcome.htm>**PUBLISHING SMALL HISTORIES AND PERIODICALS**

- 10.00 **Registration** and cup of tea for those who have travelled from far afield
- 10.30 **Welcome**, introduction, reports, general information:
- 10.30 Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Joan Hunt – introduction
- 10.40 President, Royal Historical Society of Victoria – Prof. Bill Russell – welcome
- 10.50 Exec. Officer, Royal Historical Society Victoria, Kate Prinsley – RHSV news
- 11.00 **Presentation Part 1:** by Peter Mansfield, Geelong Historical Society
- Peter is the author of ‘Graham Berry: Geelong’s radical premier’; ‘Respectable behaviour: daily life in Geelong and district in the 1850s-1890s’; ‘Generous providers and stern custodians: the development of libraries in the colony of Victoria’; and many other small local histories published during his involvement with both Ballarat Historical Society and Geelong Historical Society.
- 11.45 **Presentation Part 2:** by David Endacott, Daylesford Historical Society
- Dave has published many small local histories through his company ‘Jim Crow Press’, including ‘The Story of Browns & Scarsdale’ facsimile for Woody Yaloak Historical Society; and ‘Reflections’ for Snake Valley Historical Society. He will share his insights into how a local history should be planned and set up, with information about ISBN numbers, and Cataloguing-in-publication.
- 12.30 **Discussion:** Joan Hunt will co-ordinate a discussion session based on issues arising from the presentation. Everyone will be encouraged to participate with anecdotes, experiences, ideas, and solutions, with input from Peter and David.
- 1.00 **LUNCH** Arrangement with the Horsham Historical Society
- 1.30 **Presentation Part 3:** by Joan Hunt, compiler of “Around the Societies” for History News, the RHSV newsletter – preparing, publishing and printing small periodicals.
- Joan has been involved in publishing newsletters, journals, and other small periodicals for many years. She reads all Society newsletters which are sent to RHSV, and will share her experiences of what constitutes a very successful written communication for historical society members.
- 2.00 **Presenter Part 4:** David Endacott is an agent for Albox storage materials, and will show a range of storage for photographs, various boxes ranging from those suitable for storing CDs, manuscripts and ledgers, to large boxes for storage of costumes.
- 3.00 **Afternoon Tea** and departure.

Costs: \$15 per head includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch – Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged on 9326 9288. Bookings will close Monday 23 February.

FEBRUARY 2009 AROUND THE SOCIETIES

This column is compiled by Joan Hunt on behalf of History Victoria Support Group using information provided by Societies either directly or contained in their newsletters. For next issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 March to joanhunt@ncable.net.au

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON:

This year will be an exciting one for our committee. The 25,000 bricks belonging to Gordon’s last house where “Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes” was compiled have been discovered languishing in the Gippsland bush and we have the task

of relocating them for re-erection as a fitting memorial to the poet. The site chosen is Dingley Dell in S.A. This year August the 6th-16th is the period we commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the wreck of the “Admella” with the loss of 89 lives. Gordon rode from the wreck to raise the alarm, and wrote his poem “From the Wreck”. Also our first Brighton Cemetery tour for the year: “Adam Lindsay Gordon: His Life and Beyond” will be on Saturday March 15 at 10.30am. Bookings are essential. Ph 03 52612899 or book on www.adamlindsaygordon.org

AVOCA: The Annual Garage Sale will be held on Saturday 14 February, the major fund-raiser for the year. Prof. Weston Bate recently unveiled a newly refurbished portrait of Charles Warburton Carr, who died in 1888 after 34 years service as Avoca’s Police Magistrate. Phone Tony on 5465 3744 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~adhs/ADHSMmain.htm>

BALLAN: The AGM will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 25 February at the Courthouse in Steiglitz Street, when Sue Drury will speak on “Geocaching”, described as an electronic global-based treasure hunt using a global positioning system (GPS). Ring secretary Rick on 5368 2544 or research officer June on 5368 9527.

BALLARAT GENIES: A major project undertaken by a large number of volunteers is the biographical researching of the 1200 women with Ballarat addresses who signed the 1891 Women’s Suffrage Petition. The Ballarat East rate books 1871-1882 searchable database is almost complete and will be launched on CD mid-year. Ballarat divorces and residence/cultivation licences have been indexed and will be added to the Society’s website for free access shortly. The Society maintains close links with the Ballarat Archives Centre of the Public Record Office Victoria; and will be represented at the 15 March Beaufort Family History Fair. See www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au.

BALWYN: At 8pm on Thursday 12 February, at the Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn Mrs Muriel Perry will speak on "Oliver Gilpin and *Idlewylde*", and on 12 March Mr Bill Mackie will give an excellent power-point presentation on the Reid family of 'Belmont', Balwyn in the early 1900s. Enquiries to Robin Kelly on 9836 6589 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs/>.

BEAUFORT: on Sunday 15 March from 10-4pm the Beaufort Historical Society will host a Family History Fair in the Shire and RSL Halls entitled "Our Servicemen and Women Through the Years", with information tables representing the historical societies in the western plains region. Speakers will include Neil Wright speaking on the Goldsmith Steam Rally, Lt Col (retired) Russell Rachinger on the Significance of the Slouch Hat, and Mrs Anne Levens from the Registry Office of Victoria on Australia's Army War Dead. The Beaufort Band will play songs from the War years, and refreshments are available. Entry is a gold coin donation. Contact Pam on 5349 3055 or see www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au

BOX HILL: On Thursday 19 February the Hon. Wendy Baden-Powell will speak on "The Girl Guide Movement", which celebrates its centenary worldwide in 2010. Wendy will speak about her great-aunt, Agnes Baden-Powell, who was responsible for the beginnings of the Girl Guide Movement in England in 1910, and her grandmother, Olave Lady Baden-Powell, who became World Chief Guide following her marriage to Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scout Movement. On Thursday 19 March Geoff Rockow will speak on "Box Hill Library". In response to many requests following his talk last year on growing up in Box Hill during the 1950s and 1960s, Geoff will speak on Box Hill Library where he began his career as a cadet librarian. Meetings are held at Strabane Chapel Hall, Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North, starting at 8:00 pm. Visitors are welcome. Enquiries: phone: 9285 4808 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~bhhs/

CHELSEA: The Chelsea and District Historical Society Inc. is wanting to donate a collection in very good order of 100 stereoscopes of scenes of Japan and its people at the turn of the 20th century (1903-1905). On each reverse side there is printed in English a detailed explanation of the photograph. Hopefully the collection can be placed where it will be of informative use. To inquire and to arrange collection write to the Chelsea Historical Society, PO Box 377 Chelsea, Vic. 3196.

DONCASTER-TEMPLESTOWE: The Annual Garden Party will be held on the North Lawn at Schramm's Cottage in Rieschiecks Reserve, Victoria Street, Doncaster from 7.15pm on Saturday 14 February with a spit roast, sweets and coffee (BYO alcoholic drinks) for \$25 each – bookings to Bill on 9842 1470. See www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/

ECHUCA: The Society regrets the passing of Joan Mitchell OAM in December 2008, past President of Echuca Historical Society for about 24 years, after having been unwell for some time. Her vast knowledge of the history of Echuca will be greatly missed.

FITZROY: At 11am on Sunday 15 February the "Southern Walk" will be held, south along Gore Street to Victoria Parade and back along George Street, and includes the site of Alfred Deakin's birthplace. At 7pm on Tuesday 3 March a twilight walk will include St Mark's Anglican Church, George Street, and many other highlights on the "Eastern Walk". The starting point for both walks is the steps of the Town Hall. See fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com

GARDEN HISTORY: The 2009 Autumn Tour of the Australian Garden History Society will be held 26 April to 2 May, 7 days/6 nights of private gardens and buildings, history, art, literature, people and landscapes at Armidale, Bundarra, Guyra, Glen Innes, Uralla and Walcha in the New England region. Book with Jacki on 9650 5043 or see www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

GEELONG: At 8pm on Wednesday 4 February in the Morrow Theatre at Geelong Library, 51 Little Malop Street, Katherine White will speak on "The Door to Success? Paternalism and the Victorian Rail Institute 1900-1939". The Second Peter Alsop Occasional Lecture will be presented by Allan Willingham on "Two Geelong Prussians" on 1 April. The Society works in conjunction with the Geelong Heritage Centre, which it was instrumental in forming and to which its records have been entrusted. See www.geelongaustralia.com.au/Archives/

HAWTHORN: At 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 February in the Hawthorn Library Meeting Room at 584 Glenferrie Road, John Dean will speak on "A Million Dollar Coffee Tin, an Ancient Wreck, a Jewelled Watch, a Magical Pamphlet, a Deserted Bookfair and Other Reminiscences of a Hawthorn Collector": bookings are required to Boroondara Library Service on 9278 4666.

HEALESVILLE: Luke Steenhuis will speak on "The Yarra Track" at 2pm on Sunday 22 February at the Society's Rooms in the Healesville Memorial Hall. On Sunday 22 March Ray Churfch will speak on "The Work of Rotary". Contact secretary Alma on 5962 3601; see www.healesvillehistorical.websyete.com.au

HEIDELBERG: Perce Making will speak on "Recollections of small business in the area" at 8pm on Tuesday 10 February at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon St, Ivanhoe (enter from car park at rear). On 14 April "Research on Ned Kelly" will be Carlotta Kellaway's theme. Contact 9455 2130 or see <http://heidelberg.50webs.com>

INTERNATIONAL SETTLERS: This Service Group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria will hold a "Problem Solving Workshop" at 1pm on Saturday 21 February at the GSV rooms, Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne. See www.gsv.org.au/Groups/isg.htm.

KILMORE: At 8pm on Tuesday 3 March Robin Northover will speak on "The Forgotten Inventors" in the old Kilmore Court House. On Tuesday 7 April railway buffs Jim Marshall and Geoff McPherson will talk on the Kilmore to Heathcote railway line. Contact secretary Liz on 5782 1243 or see www.kilmorehistory.info

KYNETON: With an aim of setting targets and goals for 2009 a meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 February at the Kyneton Library: bring along ideas for meeting topics and events. A comprehensive and detailed report on the History Victoria Support Group Seminar Day held at Kyneton on 22 November is published in Vol. 9 Issue 1 (2009) of The Chronicle. Phone 0418 545 648 or see www.kynetonhistoricalsociety.org

MALVERN: On Saturday 14 March a "Step Back in Time" Day will be held at Prahran Market. For details phone Henrietta on 8290 8220. Malvern Historical Society is a member of the Stonnington History Committee and the South Metro History Group. Phone 0438 515 631 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern.

MORNINGTON: At 10.30pm on Tuesday 10 February at St Mark's Uniting Church Friendship Room, Barkly Street, Mornington, Natasha Wickes will speak on "The Keeper of the Light – Cape Schanck Lighthouse", based on her research into the history of the lighthouse as well as plans for the future. Contact secretary Dawn on 5977 0027 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~mornhsoc

NARRE WARREN: Wendy Eldridge will speak to the Family History Group on "New South Wales Records" at 8pm on Wednesday 11 February at the Narre Warren Library in Overland Drive. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~nwfhg/>

NEPEAN: The Society has been awarded a Commonwealth Heritage Grant of \$4950 to engage a professional archivist to prepare a significance assessment of the Museum's collection. A Community Grant from the Mornington Peninsula Shire for \$1000 will be used to improve the promotion display in Sringer's store window. The new 1803 Settlement Centre is now open from 1.30-4.00pm at weekends and during school holidays. Phone secretary Don on 5984 0255 or see www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au

NHILL: A Valentine's Day Raffle has been arranged for the meeting to be held at 8pm on Tuesday 10 February at Lowan Shire Hall, 104-106 MacPherson Street. On Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30-5pm and Fridays 10am-3pm the Research Centre and Museum is open, at \$5 per day for non-members. Contact secretary Kay on 5391 3131 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhs

NORTH MELBOURNE-HOTHAM: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 31 March Gary Presland will speak about his book on the natural history of the Melbourne region: "The Place for a Village: how nature has shaped the city of Melbourne", at the North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne. More details from Mary on 9329 5814 or see www.hothamhistory.org.au.

PORT MELBOURNE: From 10am till noon on Sunday 15 February you can discover "Art Deco In Port" by viewing the diverse social and architectural history of residential and industry art deco buildings of the beautiful foreshore and Bay Street precincts of Port Melbourne, with Leader Robin Grow, President of the Art Deco and Modernism Society. A "New Heritage Precinct for Middle Park" walk will be held from 10am till noon on Sunday 15 March. Phone secretary Pat on 9645 2324 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~pmhps.

QUEENSCLIFF: As part of the Maritime Weekend, on Friday 20th February you can attend "Fishy Tales in the Boatshed" for \$12 per person. The Queenscliffe Maritime Museum has been granted \$2,000 by Victoria Heritage to complete stage 2 of the Out5door Interpretive Display for the remains of HMVS *Lonsdale*. See: www.maritimequeenscliffe.org.au

RICHMOND-BURNLEY: Over 1400 women (and we have found at least one man) signed the 1891 Woman's Suffrage Petition from Richmond and Burnley. The RHSV homepage online "The WCTU & Woman's Petition" exhibition provides further information and access to the petition. Members of The Richmond & Burnley Historical Society are compiling a register of the signatories and their families. If you can help us by adding information about any person who signed the petition please contact Anne Heywood on tel: 03 9874 8957 or e-mail RichmondHS@optusnet.com.au. Your help would be most appreciated.

ST KILDA: "The History of Magic" is the theme when Meyer and Joe Eidelson trace the evolution of magic from ancient times to the modern era including Harry Houdini's visit to Melbourne 99 years ago, and include live demonstrations: at 2.30pm on Sunday 15 February at the Community room of St Kilda Library. On 15 March at 2.30 Brian Bourke, past president of South Melbourne Football Club, will speak on "Litigation, Leather and Loquacity: Tales from a Public Life". See www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk or phone 9537 1967

SHEPPARTON: The display themes for 2009 include Gentlemen's Choice in February and Heirloom Jewellery in March. A maintenance grant of \$2,200 from Council was spent on painting and repair work on display cases in the Vince Vibert Gallery, the doorway and windows. Upholstered chairs have been provided at a cost of \$3700, and upgrading signage is planned. Phone 5821 7717 or email peterandbeverleyford@hotmail.com

WARRACKNABEAL: The Society was joined by the Dunmunkle Sump Oilers at their celebratory Christmas meal. The Museum's Management Committee will extend the foyer to create mor room for archiving, storage and meeting. Warracknabeal Men's Shed is assisting with restoration of a rare Jelbart Chaff Cutter. More information: contact Jean on 5398 1901 or Robin on 5398 1475

WAVERLEY: On Thursday 26 February at 8pm, Graham Jordan will speak on "The Story of Melbourne's Trams". Mr George Dore of G.W. Dore Master Builders will spak on "Building Mulgrave to Monash" on Thursday 26 March. Contact secretary Norma on 9802 9332 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic.

WHITEHORSE: Dorothy Browne OAM will speak on "Women in Athletics" at 1.30pm on Saturday 14 February at the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. . Phone 9873 4946 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/

YACKANDANDAH: The Yackandandah Museum, victim of a damaging fire which highlighted the advantages of historical societies having a disaster plan, has reopened with great fanfare, and life is returning to some normality with the historical society and a museum to run. Guest of Honour, Andy Muirhead, from ABC Collectors, headed a day of celebrations including a parade, brass bands, role playing and dress-ups, and the official reopening. Contact by email to ykbankmuseum@yahoo.com.au

History

NEWS



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